

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER	
AD388747	
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES	
TO:	UNCLASSIFIED
FROM:	CONFIDENTIAL
LIMITATION CHANGES	
TO: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.	
FROM: Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors; Administrative/Operational Use; 05 MAR 1968. Other requests shall be referred to Dept. of the Army, Office of the Adjutant General, Washington, DC.	
AUTHORITY	
AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980	

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH
DOD 5200.1-R & EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652**

THIS DOCUMENT IS:

CLASSIFIED BY:

**Subject to General Declassification Schedule of
Executive Order 11652-Automatically Downgraded at
2 Years Intervals- DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 73.**

BY

**Defense Documentation Center
Defense Supply Agency
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

SECURITY

MARKING

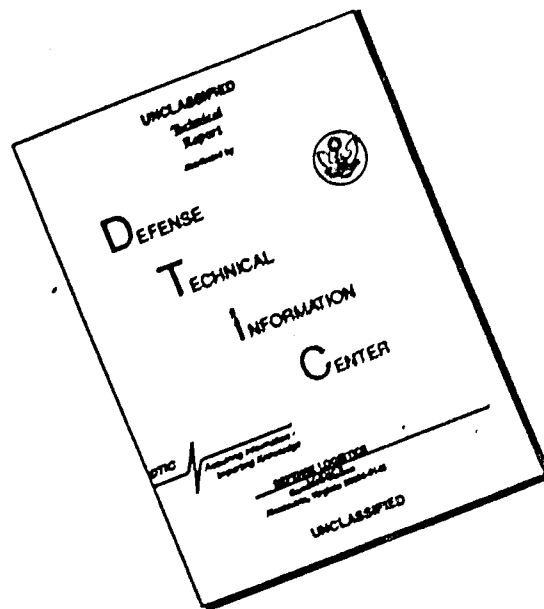
The classified or limited status of this report applies to each page, unless otherwise marked.

Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

NOTICE: When government or other drawings, specifications or other data are used for any purpose other than in connection with a definitely related government procurement operation, the U. S. Government thereby incurs no responsibility, nor any obligation whatsoever; and the fact that the Government may have formulated, furnished, or in any way supplied the said drawings, specifications, or other data is not to be regarded by implication or otherwise as in any manner licensing the holder or any other person or corporation, or conveying any rights or permission to manufacture, use or sell any patented invention that may in any way be related thereto.

DISCLAIMER NOTICE



THIS DOCUMENT IS BEST QUALITY AVAILABLE. THE COPY FURNISHED TO DTIC CONTAINED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PAGES WHICH DO NOT REPRODUCE LEGIBLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310



IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (1 Mar 68) FOR OT RD-674131

5 March 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 54th Artillery Group, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

DISTRIBUTION:

Commanding Generals

US Continental Army Command
US Army Combat Developments Command

Commandants

US Army War College
US Army Command and General Staff College
US Army Adjutant General School
US Army Air Defense School
US Army Armor School
US Army Artillery and Missile School
US Army Aviation School
US Army Chemical School
US Army Civil Affairs School
US Army Engineer School
US Army Infantry School
US Army Intelligence School

APR 2 1968

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED
FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

CONFIDENTIAL

✓

DISTRIBUTION (Cont'd)

US Army Medical Field Service School
US Army Military Police School
US Army Missile and Munitions School
US Army Ordnance School
US Army Quartermaster School
US Army Security Agency School
US Army Signal School
US Army Southeastern Signal School
US Army Special Warfare School
US Army Transportation School

Copies furnished:

Office, Chief of Staff, US Army
Deputy Chiefs of Staff
Chief of Engineers
Chief of Research and Development
Assistant Chiefs of Staff
The Surgeon General
The Provost Marshal General
Research Analysis Corporation (Library)
Dr. Martin J. Bailey, OSD(SA)
Defense Documentation Center
Director, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group
Commanding Generals
 US Army Weapons Command
 5th Infantry Division (Mech)
Commanding Officers
 54th Artillery Group
 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP
APO San Francisco 96376

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

THRU: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVFB-FAC
APO 96266

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-FAC
APO 96375

Commander-in-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-OT

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
ATTN: ACSFOR, DA
Washington, D. C. 20310

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. (C) Organization and Mission

a. This headquarters remains assigned to United States Army Vietnam and operates as a major subordinate command of USARV. Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery retains operational control of the 54th Artillery Group.

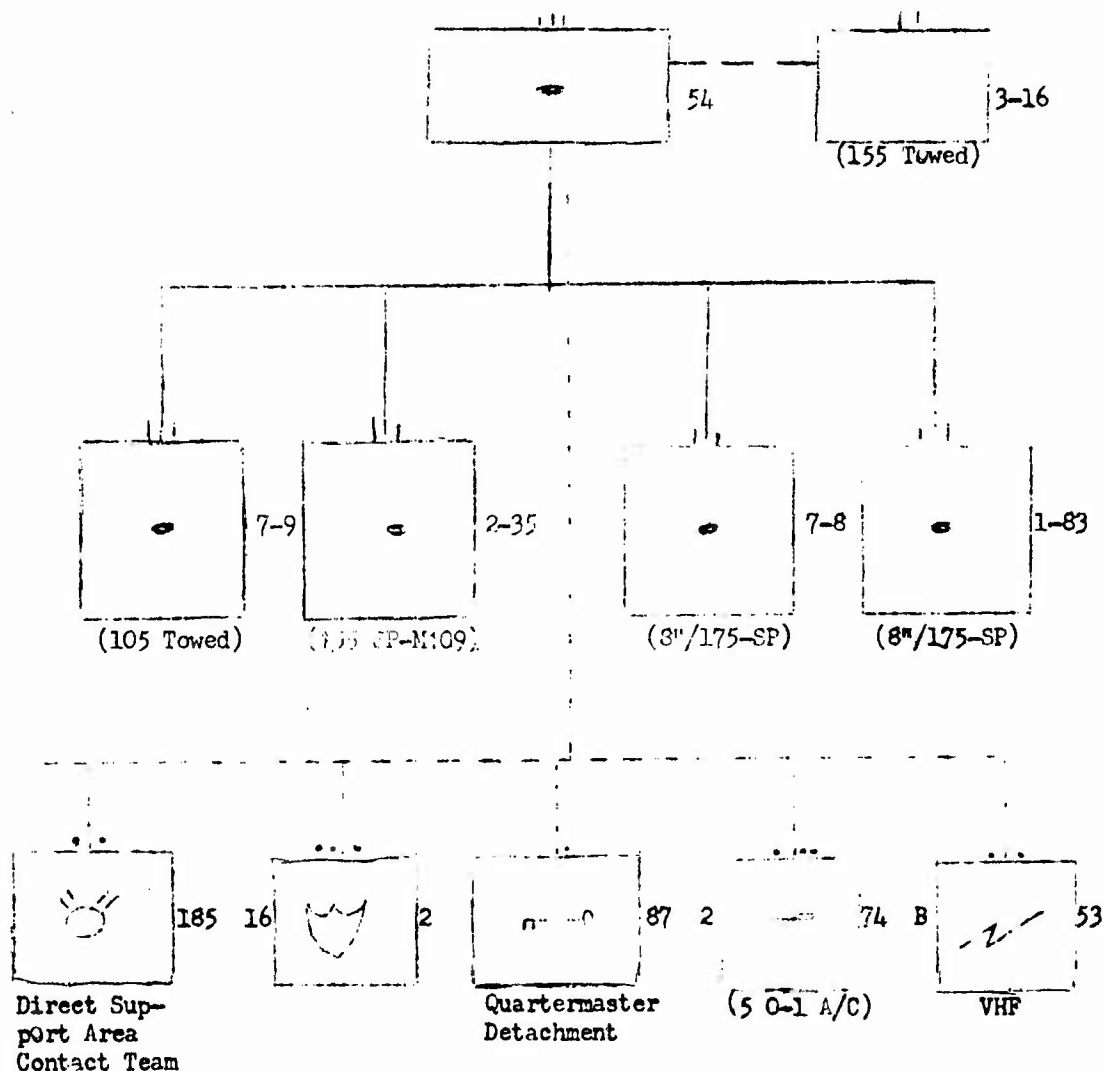
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10

FOR OTRO
674131

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

b. Organizational Structure of 54th Artillery Group effective 31 October 1967



Legend

- — — Assigned; further assigned Task Force Oregon
- - - - - Attached for rations and quarters

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSPOR-65

1
c. The mission of the 54th Artillery Group is: "General Support II Field Force Vietnam, reinforcing the 13th ARVN Division Artillery, the Howitzer Batteries of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 9th Infantry Division Artillery and the 1st Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.

2. (C) Command and Control

a. The 54th Artillery Group mission as stated in paragraph 1c above has caused the units within Group to operate in areas in excess of 10,000 square kilometers. Distances between Group headquarters, subordinate battalions and dispersed firing batteries complicate command and control. Firing batteries are located on an average distance of 30 kilometers from their parent battalions and, in one case, a firing battery was located a distance of 150 kilometers from battalion headquarters.

b. Command supervision continues to be dependent on helicopter support. The 54th Artillery Group had no organic aviation section but was allocated two UH-1D Helicopters daily and one additional helicopter for one half day during 50 percent of the reporting period. Command and staff visits, liaison missions, personnel moves, mail delivery, DEROS and R&R moves, critical repair parts shipments---all are typical daily missions required to properly manage a force of 2400 personnel scattered from Ham Tan on the coast to Dong Tam in the Delta. Helicopter support was and continues to be inadequate.

c. The 54th Artillery Group Commander's initial command survey following assumption of command on 2 August 1967 indicated certain areas which required command attention.

(1) One battalion was unsatisfactory in supply, maintenance, storage of ammunition and general housekeeping.

(2) The Group materiel readiness program lacked a sense of urgency particularly in removing artillery weapons from a deadline status.

(3) Staff effectiveness at Group level was shattered by the DEROS of all primary Group staff officers during the period 8-24 August 1967.

(4) The Group had no infusion plan to cope with excessive personnel rotations particularly in the 7th Bn, 9th Artillery and the 7th Bn, 8th Artillery.

(5) The Group headquarters inherited the tactical control of artillery fire for the specific area of Xuan Loc. This situation hindered the Group from functioning properly in the tactical control of its assigned battalions throughout the Group's zone of responsibility.

3. (C) Administrative and Personnel Activities

a. The 54th Artillery Group is required to exercise a high degree of centralized administrative and logistical supervision due to the variety

Page 11c

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

CONFIDENTIAL

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

of tactical missions assigned and the dispersion of assigned units. The Artillery battalions in this Group are assigned, rather than attached to the Group.

b. Personnel strength of the command as of 31 October was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUTH</u>			<u>ASG</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
HQB, 54th Arty Gp	15	1	90	23	1	136
7th Bn, 8th Arty	27	4	534	25	4	499
7th Bn, 9th Arty	35	3	501	32	2	465
2d Bn, 35th Arty	33	4	574	33	4	551
1st Bn, 83d Arty	<u>31</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>534</u>
	141	16	2243	139	15	2185

c. Personnel changes within the command during this quarter were:

<u>GAINS:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>LOSSES:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	109	6	773		97	4	1000

d. Casualties within the command:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed in action	2
Wounded in action	10
Non battle dead	0

e. Awards and decorations presented to members of this command:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Bronze Star	35
Air Medal	25
Army Commendation Medal	50
Purple Heart	4

f. Judicial and non-judicial actions by units included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ART 15</u>	<u>SCM</u>	<u>SPCM</u>	<u>GCM</u>
HQB, 54th Arty Gp	7	0	3	0
7th Bn, 8th Arty	30	0	0	0
7th Bn, 9th Arty	34	2	0	0
2d Bn, 35th Arty	26	1	2	0
1st Bn, 83d Arty	17	1	7	0

Page 7**CONFIDENTIAL.**

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

1
g. Reportable accidents included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
HMB, 54th Arty Gp	0	0	0
7th Bn, 8th Arty	5	0	2
7th Bn, 9th Arty	1	0	0
2d Bn, 35th Arty	1	0	2
1st Bn, 83d Arty	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTALS	12	0	8

h. Infusion

(1) The USARV planning requirement to reduce monthly CONUS personnel rotations to no more than 15 per cent of assigned strength has been completed. During the reporting period, 86 enlisted personnel were infused with the 23rd Artillery Group.

(2) Officer and enlisted infusion will be completed by 15 April 1968. A total of 358 personnel will be infused by that date to meet the USARV objectives. Care has been taken to program the infusion throughout all MOS's and grades to minimize the effect of personnel turbulence on each unit's capability to continue to perform its combat mission.

(3) The turnover of officer and enlisted personnel in the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery for this period was in excess of 60 percent of the authorized strength. Adequate and timely replacements were not provided and an interim existed during which time the battalion operated at 80 percent strength.

1. The 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery remains assigned to the Group and is further attached to the Americal Division. The 54th Artillery Group retains promotional authority and the responsibility to provide personnel replacements.

4. (C) Intelligence Activities

a. A custodial change caused a 100% inventory of classified documents within the Group headquarters; all documents were properly accounted for.

b. Visual Reconnaissance

(1) During the reporting period, seven O-1 aircraft supported the 54th Artillery Group visual reconnaissance program. A platoon of five (5) aircraft was attached to the Group Headquarters and based at Xuan Loc; two (2) O-1 aircraft were provided on a daily mission basis from their home station at Phu Loi. The seven aircraft have flown a total of 1215 missions

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

and 2581 hours in support of the visual reconnaissance program during the reporting period. 294 "adjust" and 369 registration missions were fired by aerial observers resulting in 16 VC KIA (body count). Visual reconnaissance was carried out within II FFORCE Arty prescribed zones of responsibility further delineated by the range capability of the 175mm gun.

(2) The S2 Section acquired a 35mm "hand held camera" for use in the visual reconnaissance program. The 54th Artillery Group has initiated a program to train aerial observers in camera operation and employment as a means to improve target identification. Photos will be useful in up-dating road and bridge data and will assist in post-strike target surveillance.

(3) The quantity and quality of the information obtained from the visual reconnaissance program have been a source of command interest. An assessment of the background and experience of the aerial observers currently assigned has uncovered a weakness in their formal training. Although officers assigned as aerial observers are trained artillerymen, most have not been schooled in visual reconnaissance techniques prior to their arrival in Vietnam. The 54th Artillery Group has initiated a program for aerial observer training which will be conducted during the next reporting period.

5. (C) Operations

a. During the reporting period the southwest monsoon season decreased the requirements for artillery support because of fewer large scale operations. Units of this Group participated in operations in support of the 18th ARVN Division, the 9th Infantry Division, the 1st Infantry Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and the 1st Australian Task Force. The operations were:

<u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNITS PARTICIPATING</u>
FORSYTHE	AUG	7th Bn, 9th Arty
AKRON	AUG	7th Bn, 9th Arty; 2d Bn, 35th Arty
CORONADO II	AUG	2d Bn, 35th Arty
EMPORIA II	AUG	2d Bn, 35th Arty
BALLARAT	AUG	2d Bn, 35th Arty; 1st Bn 83d Arty
RILEY II	AUG	2d Bn, 35th Arty
WEYMIA	AUG	7th Bn, 8th Arty
ATHERTON	AUG	1st Bn, 83d Arty
EMPORIA IV	SEP	7th Bn, 9th Arty
UNIONTOWN	SEP	7th Bn, 9th Arty
QUICKSILVER II	SEP	2d Bn, 35th Arty
QUICKSILVER III	SEP	7th Bn, 9th Arty; 1st Bn, 83d Arty
RICHMOND	SEP	7th Bn, 9th Arty
KENMORE	SEP	2d Bn, 35th Arty; 1st Bn, 83d Arty
AINSLIE	SEP	1st Bn, 83d Arty
ENTERPRISE	OCT	2d Bn, 35th Arty
THAYER	OCT	2d Bn, 35th Arty

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

b. During the reporting period the total rounds fired by units of this command were.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>WEAPON</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ROUNDS</u>
7th Bn, 9th Arty	105 (T)	35,002
2d Bn, 35th Arty	155 (SP)	50,294
7th Bn, 8th Arty	8" (SP)	13,216
	175mm (SP)	11,756
1st Bn, 83d Arty	8" (SP)	9,411
	175mm (SP)	10,764
	TOTAL ROUNDS FIRED	130,443

c. Significant Movements

(1) The 7th Bn, 8th Artillery planned and on 14 Sep 67 executed the airlift move of one heavy artillery battery from Bien Hoa to Phuoc Binh. 1,256,000 pounds of equipment and one hundred and sixty men were moved by C-124 and C-130 aircraft to Phuoc Binh.

(2) Headquarters 7th Bn, 8th Artillery moved from Bear Cat to Bien Hoa on 14 October 1967, and established its new base camp in the Camp Zinn area at Bien Hoa.

6. (C) Training

a. A program providing instruction on procedures to be utilized by RF/PF Outposts in adjusting artillery fires has been established and is continuing. Coordination between the Artillery Advisor to the 18th AVN Division, the Xuan Loc Sector Advisor, and the 54th Artillery Group has been accomplished. A lesson plan (Bi-lingual: English and Vietnamese) has been prepared by this headquarters and forwarded to II FFORCEV Arty for use elsewhere. Training aids and target indicators have been prepared for instructors and RF/PF Outposts. Defensive fires for outposts were plotted and "fired-in" where possible.

b. A DA Training Team presented FADAC training at Bear Cat during the week of 3-8 Sep 67. Each battalion provided two (2) officers, four (4) EM operators and one (1) second echelon repairman for training. On 8 Sep 67, Battalions received RADAC equipment consisting of four (4) M18 FADAC, one (1) AN/GSC-44, DATA Re-producer, and eight (8) 3K Model 5801 Generators. Battalions have formed a FADAC Team for continuing the training program.

c. The Group S-4, in conjunction with Battalion S-4's, sponsored classes for subordinate units in FLL procedures and stockpile levels for battery and battalion supply personnel.

Page 7

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

d. MTOE - Personnel

In second quarter FY 68, the 54th Artillery Group submitted MTOE #6-401G to CG, II Field Force Artillery, for approval. This request reflected an addition of 4 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 30 enlisted men above TOE 6-401G. The additional men were needed to adequately perform all administrative and tactical responsibilities dictated by the mission of the 54th Artillery Group operating in Vietnam. Two additional liaison sections were requested to provide permanent liaison to the units supported by the 54th Artillery Group.

e. MTOE - Equipment

The 54th Artillery Group requested approval of an aviation section which included four (4) OH-6A and two (2) HU-1D Helicopters. One (1) AN/VRC-46 FM radio was requested for the S-5 Section to provide organic communication. Two (2) AN/VRC FM radios and one (1) UHF/RT323/VRC radio was requested for the Air Warning Control Center. Equipment for two additional liaison sections was also requested in the MTOE change proposed.

7. (C) Logistics

a. Supplies. All categories of supplies were available in satisfactory quantities during the reporting period.

b. Transportation - Ham Tan

(1) Battery "B", 1st Bn, 83d Artillery located at Ham Tan (ZS0283) was resupplied by both air and sea during the period 1 Aug 67 - 31 Oct 67. However, by the end of the reporting period, the over-the-beach movement of supplies had been halted and the unit was totally dependent on aerial resupply. Although a suitable airfield is readily available for delivery of supplies, repair of over-the-beach facilities should reduce the expense involved in airlift operations by use of barge or LCU/LCV resupply craft.

c. Maintenance

Artillery downtime for units assigned to the 54th Artillery Group is shown below:

<u>TYPE UNIT</u>	<u>AVAILABLE DAYS</u> (#wpns x days)	<u>%DOWNTIME</u>
Light Arty Bn	1656	1
Medium Arty Bn	1656	8
Heavy Arty Bn	2208	13

d. Technical Assistance

A Maintenance Specialist/Technical Representative from the

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 8

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

US Army Weapons Command has been assigned to the 54th Artillery Group. The individual assigned to this position has provided immeasurable service to the United States Army. He has organized maintenance classes for inexperienced personnel, conducted technical inspection of weapons, participated in CMMI inspections; expedited the location and distribution of repair parts and has provided the Group Commander with valuable advice on maintenance management procedures. This individual is a key man in the Group maintenance effort. The assignment of USAWECOM maintenance specialists to combat support units should be continued.

c. Repair Parts

(1) Although the availability of repair parts is generally good, timely delivery of the parts from the source to the user is often delayed by non-availability of aircraft or by the requirement to move by armed convoy.

(2) Separation of batteries from battalion maintenance sections and Direct Support maintenance units is common. Air transportation is often required to move parts in a timely manner so as to reduce weapon downtime. There is no organic airlift within the 54th Artillery Group and movement of necessary repair parts is often delayed.

f. Maintenance Training

The status of training both organizational and direct support maintenance personnel has been found inadequate in some units. This situation is prevalent in M107/M110 units and their direct support maintenance units. A general vehicle repairman MOS 63C is an authorized MOS in a heavy artillery unit. However, lack of previous experience on M107/M110 weapons reduces the quality of the maintenance effort and, in effect, requires the mechanic to gain experience through on-the-job training.

8. (C) Civic Affairs.

a. The 54th Artillery Group has supported the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAPS) throughout the Group area. There were 70 MEDCAPS conducted treating 3201 patients.

b. A shrine dedicated to PF Soldiers was erected in the village of Tan Lap, Long Khanh Sector by US/RVN personnel.

c. English language classes are being continued for about 150 students by Group Headquarters Battery personnel. An average of 36 hours of instruction per month is being presented.

d. In Xuan Loc, Long Khanh Sector, a sports center for the youth of the Province Capital was completed and dedicated during the reporting period by US/RVN personnel.

Page 9

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

12

SECTION II

PART I, OBSERVATIONS (C)

1. (C) Personnel and Administration.

a. ITEM: Personnel Infusion:

(1) DISCUSSION: The infusion program for the 54th Artillery Group has been modified and now includes officers, NCO's and enlisted personnel. The goal of this program is to have no more than 15% of a unit's authorized strength rotate in a given month. Infusion arrangements with other major commands and within the Group have been undertaken. The infusion goal was easily met with the transfer of personnel by numbers alone. However, when considering the requirement for continuity of essential personnel to maintain each unit's combat capability, severe problems were encountered. The transfer of key personnel in all grades and MOS must be carefully coordinated on a by-name and by-MOS basis to maintain a satisfactory combat readiness posture.

(2) OBSERVATION: Command emphasis must be exerted early to cause newly arrived units to begin infusion immediately upon arrival in-country. Battalion commanders will be reluctant to infuse key NCO's early; however, this only postpones the inevitable problems of infusion in all ranks.

2. (U) Intelligence (None)

3. (C) Operations

a. ITEM: Liaison Requirements

(1) DISCUSSION: Inherent in the mission of the 54th Artillery Group is the requirement to maintain liaison with four supported units. The 54th Artillery Group is authorized one Liaison Officer by TOE 6-401E. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment does not have sufficient organic artillery personnel in the Regimental staff to operate a FSE and, for this reason, the 54th Artillery Group maintains a permanent Liaison Officer with the Regiment. Daily staff visits are made to 18th ARVN Division which is located adjacent to the Group Headquarters. Group staff officers conduct coordination visits to the 9th Infantry Division Artillery and the 1st Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. Close coordination with the 9th Infantry Division Artillery is maintained through utilization of staff personnel of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery acting as agents for the Group. The 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery is co-located with the 9th Infantry Division Artillery Headquarters. Close co-operation with the 1st Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery is maintained through an exchange of officers between the Royal Australian Artillery and 1st Battalion, 83d Artillery which is located adjacent to the Regimental Headquarters. Close coordination could be enhanced if permanent liaison officers were available for the Group to provide to its reinforced units.

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 2

1

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

13
(2) OBSERVATION: The mission of the 54th Artillery Group requires that close and continuous coordination be maintained on a permanent basis with three widely separated headquarters. Only one liaison officer is currently authorized to accomplish this mission. Modifications to augment the S-3 section of a field artillery group have been submitted and should be approved without delay.

b. ITEM: Helicopter Support

(1) DISCUSSION: The 54th Artillery Group has four assigned battalions which are tactically employed throughout an area of 10,000 square kilometers. All roads leading out of Xuan Loc are amber which means that surface travel must be in organized armed convoys. The Group has no assigned aircraft; however, it does receive two UH1D on a daily mission basis and an additional UH1D every other half day. (See attached sketch map for typical unit disposition as of 31 Oct 67, TAB A).

(2) OBSERVATIONS: Helicopters are required for reconnaissance and supervision of artillery movements, command and control visits by the Group Commander, battalion commanders, and their staffs. Neither the Group nor assigned battalions have organic aircraft assets to provide for movement of personnel on R&R and DEROS, rotation, and transportation of repair parts and mail. Although much effort has been expended by the previous Group Commander to obtain an organic aviation section, none has been authorized. As a minimum, an aviation section of four observation helicopters and two utility helicopters is required for adequate command, control and supply purposes.

c. ITEM: Tactical Fire Direction

(1) DISCUSSION: The operations center of the 54th Artillery Group operates a tactical fire direction center which controls fire on all targets within range of artillery located in the Xuan Loc area. In addition, the Group maintains an Air Warning Control Center which provides friendly aircraft with artillery fire warning from 11 base camp locations and all field positions within an area of 6000 square kilometers. These activities are not normal functions of an artillery group and require personnel above those authorized in TO&E in order to provide for a 24 hour per day operation. The Air Warning Control Center requires the use of two FM and one AM radios. Radios authorized by TO&E have been diverted from their normal use in order to accomplish this mission.

(2) OBSERVATION: Additional personnel and equipment are required to support a round-the-clock operation involving missions not normally associated with an artillery group headquarters.

d. ITEM: Ammunition Expenditure

(1) DISCUSSION: The 54th Artillery Group initiated a detailed study of its ammunition expenditure rate in October 1967. Areas of interest investigated included: sources or agencies requesting fires, availability

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 11

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

14

of firing units within the Group, total number of missions requested, target selection criteria and ammunition expended per target. The investigation revealed that a practice had emerged which permitted observers to fire without restraint on suspect target locations. Forward observers and aerial observers were, in effect, dictating the number of rounds to be fired on a given target.

(2) OBSERVATION: Although the survey is incomplete, certain actions have been taken to reduce ammunition expenditures. Definitive guidance on the quantity and type of ammunition to be fired on type targets has been incorporated in tactical SOP's for Fire Direction Officers (FDO). Specific emphasis has been placed on the requirement for the FDO to issue the Fire Order and prudently control the amount of ammunition expended.

4. (C) Training

ITEM: Road Marching of Heavy Artillery Units

(1) DISCUSSION: Experience has shown that heavy artillery batteries must be regularly road-marched to keep track equipment in a high state of readiness. One 175mm/8" battery had difficulty in completing a road march of only 12 miles due to the fact that the M107/M110 vehicles had been in a static base camp position area for several months. When called upon to move, the battery had several vehicular failures which seriously impaired its capability to perform its mission.

(2) OBSERVATION: M107/M110 vehicles should be exercised regularly on road-marches to maintain a high state of mobility readiness. Group policy now prescribes that all track vehicles will be driven at least six (6) miles every ten (10) days. Artillery assaults and raids have been planned to place neutralizing fires on known and suspect targets. These maneuvers further the training of heavy artillery batteries in reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position while at the same time accomplishing a valid combat operation.

5. (C) Logistics

a. ITEM: Transportation of Repair Parts

(1) DISCUSSION: An analysis of the weapons downtime experienced by the 54th Artillery Group shows that, in general, repair parts availability is adequate. However, transportation problems encountered in moving the parts from the stockage point to the using unit have extended downtime. Hazardous road conditions require armed convoy protection for moving supplies and parts and helicopter transportation is not readily available to Direct Support Maintenance Units.

(2) OBSERVATION: Artillery weapons' downtime can be further reduced by allocations of additional airlift to Direct Support Maintenance units or by the assignment of aircraft to the 54th Artillery Group.

CONFIDENTIAL Page 14

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGA-C

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

6. (U) Medical

ITEM: Falciparum Malaria

(1) DISCUSSION: Several cases of Falciparum Malaria were reported following operation in the Gia Ray (Long Khanh Province) area.

(2) OBSERVATION: Permission has been obtained from USARV Surgeon for use of Dapsone when operating in this area in the future.

7. (U) Civil Affairs

ITEM: Control of the local populace during a MEDCAF

(1) DISCUSSION: It is usually the rule, rather than the exception, that during a MEDCAF more people will want to be seen by the doctor than is feasible. Also, there is a great number of children who are not sick, but who are curious and linger around the doctor.

(2) OBSERVATION: To control the number of patients that can be seen by the doctor and to keep from offending those that cannot be seen, it is a good policy to have the village leader present during the MEDCAF and have him inform his people that the doctor will see only a designated number of people (or stay for a specified length of time).

8. (C) Communications

a. ITEM: Malfunctioning of the KYB-6/TSEC.

(1) DISCUSSION: Investigation into the sporadic operation of the KYB-6/TSEC at this headquarters, revealed that the electrical contact spring guide boards in the KYK-12/TSEC were badly warped, thereby causing the electrical contact springs to ride off the metal contact strips.

(2) OBSERVATION: This condition was alleviated by Crypto repairmen placing cork strips inside the KYK-12/TSEC to keep the guide boards from warping.

b. ITEM: AN/GRC-46 RADIO

(1) DISCUSSION: Units are still experiencing excessive downtime with the AM radio set AN/GRC-46. This is apparently due to climatic conditions and prolonged use.

(2) OBSERVATION: The AM radio capability of the Group would be greatly improved by the issuance of the AN/GRC-26D, or similar type radio, in the Single Side Band series.

Page 13

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVG.-A

5 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

SECTION II

PART II RECOMMENDATIONS (C)

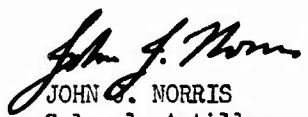
1. (U) Personnel and Administration: Units being designated for deployment to Vietnam should be appraised of current USARV infusion regulations and be directed to prepare a tentative infusion plan in sufficient detail (by name, MOS and rank) to commence implementation immediately after arrival in Vietnam.

2. (U) Intelligence: (None)

3. (C) Operations: Early approval of the proposed change to MTOE #6-401G will provide necessary personnel, equipment and aviation support to the 54th Artillery Group to enable it to perform its assigned mission with maximum effectiveness. In the interim, the 54th Artillery Group requires the routine use of three and one-half utility helicopters per day to **operate** effectively.

4. (U) Training: (None)

5. (U) Logistics: Airlift allocations to Direct Support Maintenance units should be increased. Artillery weapon downtime can be further reduced by the expeditious delivery of repair parts. Priority air should be the normal mode of transportation for critical repair parts to artillery units.


JOHN G. NORRIS
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

14
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

17
AVFB-PAC (5 Dec 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (U)

DA, Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96200 15 DEC 1967

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96200
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AFM: AVNGC-DH,
APO 96375
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, AFM: AFOP-CI,
APO 96358

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report for 54th Artillery Group (GIC: MA03AA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

2. (U) Reference section I, paragraph 7b. This headquarters recently completed a study on the resupply of the heavy artillery battery at Nam Tan. The tonnage required for the aerial resupply of the battery is minimal when compared with the cost to construct an adequate over the beach unloading facility. The heavy battery at Nam Tan will continue to be resupplied by air.

3. (U) Reference section I, paragraph 7d. The assistance provided subordinate units of this command by the maintenance specialists/technical representatives from the Army Weapons Command was contributed significantly to the successful accomplishment of the artillery mission.

4. (U) Reference section II, Part I, paragraph 8b. The issue of the AM/GRC-142 to replace the AM/GRC-40 is scheduled for the 1st quarter, CY 1968.

5. (U) Section II, Part II, paragraph 1. Concur.

6. (U) Section II, Part II, paragraph 3. Concur. A proposed AFOS 6-401G for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of an Artillery Group was submitted to USARPV on 20 October 1967. This proposed AFOS requested four (4) OH-6A and two (2) UH-1D aircraft for the Group headquarters. Although not yet approved, the proposed AFOS is scheduled for consideration by DA in early 1968.

7. (U) Section II, Part II, paragraph 5. Concur. Air transportation should be made readily available to direct support maintenance units for the purpose of expeditiously delivering repair parts required at artillery positions.



RAYMOND P. MURPHY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

CONFIDENTIAL

15

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

18

AVFBC-RE-H (5 Dec 67) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (UIC-WDFU TO) (U)

DA HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266

27 DEC 1967


THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This command has reviewed the attached report and concurs with the comments and recommendations as modified by the 1st Indorsement, with the following comments:
 - a. Section I, p 3, para 2,b. 54th Arty Group is receiving its proportional share of administrative (GS) aircraft from II FFORCEV daily committable assets.
 - b. Section I, p 11, para 3,b. Army aviation section organic to the 54th Arty Group would unquestionably enhance command and control and would release supporting aircraft for tactical missions. The proposed MPOE, if approved, will satisfy the Group's aviation requirements.
 - c. Section II, p 13, para 8,a. The malfunction discussed on the KYB-6/TSEC has been eliminated by MWO.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


R. E. WAMBEGANS
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CONFIDENTIAL

19
AVHGC-DST (5 Dec 67) 3d Ind (C)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 25 JAN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 54th Artillery Group (AO3A) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

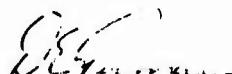
a. Reference item concerning liaison requirements, page 10, paragraph 3a. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Artillery Group, TOE 6-401G was used during Phase II of USARV unit standardization to propose a standard MTOE 6-401G for all artillery groups in USARV. This MTOE increases the LNO to three and adds an aviation section. Total MTOE strength is 144. This is a 54 man increase over current authorized strength for the 54th Artillery Group. This MTOE, after DA approval and General Orders reorganizing the headquarters and headquarters battery are published, will fill all requirements stated.

b. Reference item concerning helicopter support, page 11, paragraph b: Concur. Due to DA policy on assignment of aircraft to combat support and combat service support units, additional aircraft are currently not available for assignment to elements of the 54th Artillery Group. MTOE action mentioned in preceding paragraph may alleviate this situation.

c. Reference item concerning transportation of repair parts, page 12, paragraph 5; and page 14, paragraph 5: Nonconcur. The TMA ships repair parts based on the Required Delivery Date. If the RDD dictates air shipment, that method is used. However, if the RDD can be met by use of other means of transportation, this is done. Airlift is critical and allocation of common user air transportation cannot be given to specific units.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


D. E. TUMAN
Major AGC
Asst Adjutant General

cy furn:
HQ, II FFORCEV
HQ, 54th Arty Gp

17

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10 Applies

CONFIDENTIAL

20

GPOP-DT (5 Dec 67) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1967 from HQ, 54th Artillery Group (UIC: WAO3AA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 23 FEB 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

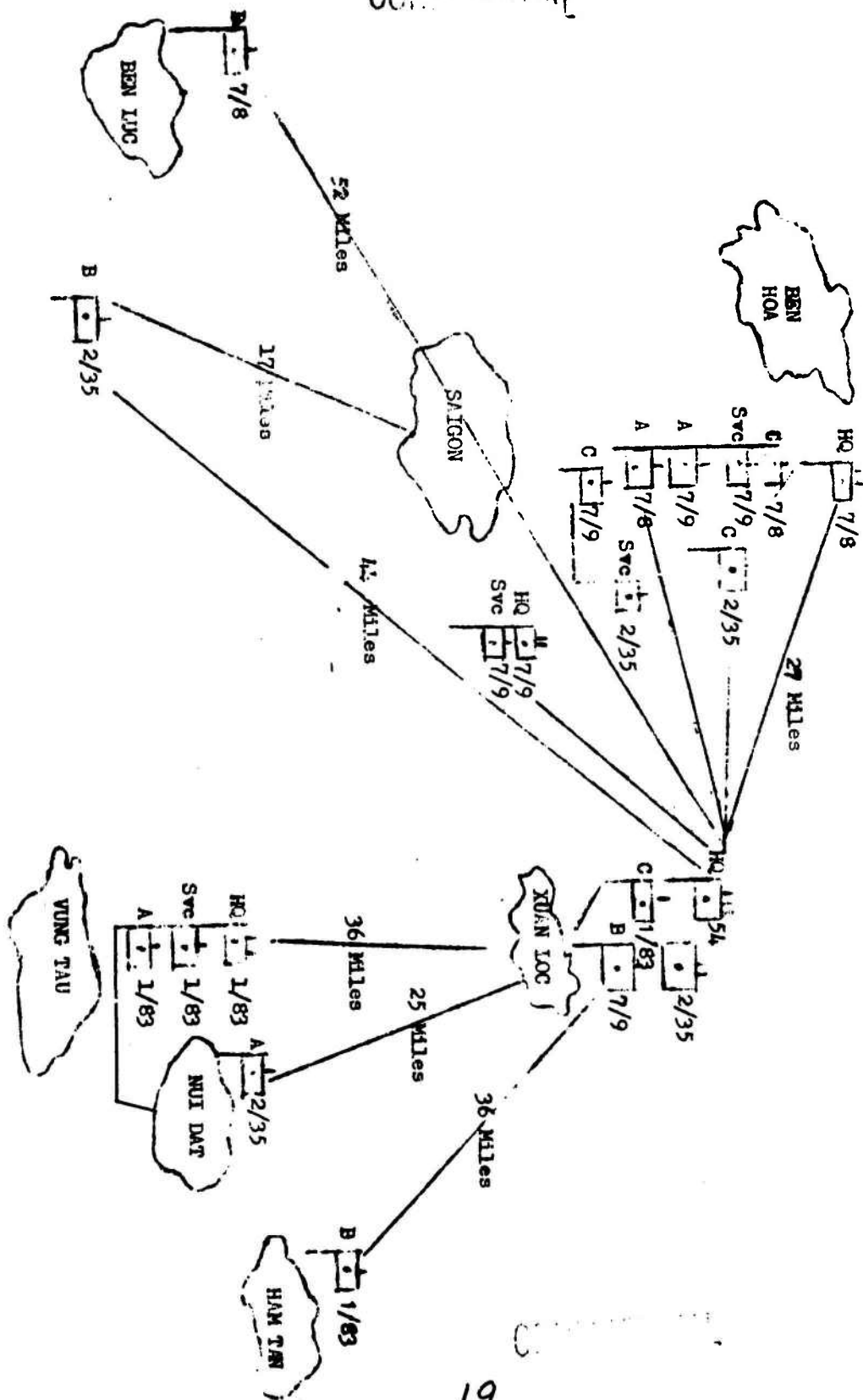
2. Reference Section II, Part II, para 3 and para 2b, 3d Indorsement:
During the aviation conference held in Vietnam during period 21-31 Jan 68
and attended by representatives from DA, USARPAC, and USARV, the aviation
requirements in the MTOE submitted by the 54th Artillery Group were
considered. Provided subsequent higher priority requirements are not
established, assets are programmed to be available to fill the 54th
Artillery Group's aviation requirements during 4th Qtr FY 69.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

K. F. Osbourn
K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG

CONFIDENTIAL

DISPOSITION OF 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP UNITS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1967



UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D		
(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)		
1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		Confidential
		2b. GROUP
		4
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 54th Artillery Group		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1967		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, 54th Artillery Group		
6. REPORT DATE	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
5 December 1967	20	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
	674131	
b. PROJECT NO.		
N/A		
c.	9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.		
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A	OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT		
20		

DD FORM 1 NOV 63 1473

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN DELIMITED
AND CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
UNDER DGD DIRECTIVE 5200.20 AND
NO RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON
ITS USE AND DISCLOSURE.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED,